A. M. D. G.

Province News

PROVINCE OF CALIFORNIA

Provincial's Residence, 55 West San Fernando St., San Jose, Calif.

For Private Circulation.

A. 14. OCTOBER, 1937. No. 2

ALMA

Father Leo Keeler, Professor of History and Philosophy at the Gregorian University, was killed at Alma on September 11. As the automobile rounded the curve just below our lower gardens, it skidded over the edge of the road and crashed down a steep bank into a tree.

His companion, Father John Bannon, who is doing post-graduate work at California, escaped with slight bruises. The driver, Seb Passanis, an alumnus of U. S. F., was merely shaken up.

The office of the dead was recited by the community, and on the day of the funeral, September 16, V. R. Fr. Provincial said the Requiem Mass. Father Keeler's brother and sister were present. The entire community attended. The interment was at Santa Clara. The Alma community sent a spiritual bouquet to Father Keeler's mother.

Father Keeler, who was a "hospes" for one hour at Alma, got the advantage of "hospes" in the Epitome 854, No. 2, 1° and received 3 Masses, etc., as suffrages.

On schola brevis day, September 10, Father Rector sang a solemn high Mass, assisted by Father Preston as Deacon and Father White as sub-deacon. The Faculty made the profession of faith on September 12.

The ad audiendas were held on September 11 and 13.

On September 1, the Theologians occupied the new building.

There are 97 Theologians at Alma.

Father Al Whelan, of the America staff, addressed the Theologians on September 5.

In Hawaii this summer Father Wm. Donnelly gave the first laymen's retreat ever made in the Hawaiian Islands.

LOS ALTOS

In September Father McFadden gave two retreats at St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco. Some 120 nurses made the retreats.

Father McFadden and Father Crowley gave the five retreats for women at Maryknoll this summer. Some 60 women made the retreats.

Father Crowley gave the two retreats for the Fresno clergy held at El Retiro in September.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

The Harvard Club of Los Angeles invited the educational leaders of Los Angeles to a luncheon in honor of Dr. Conant, the visiting president of Harvard University. Father Ferguson represented Loyola University. Loyola, as a pioneer in Southern California education, was granted precedence at the speaker's table.

The Loyola Mothers' Guild completely renovated the parlors at the University with new furnishings.

46 students will obtain NYA assistance at Loyola this year.

Mr. White, a senior accountant in a local firm, has been appointed Comptroller of the University.

There has been an increase of over 500 volumes in the library during the summer.

Father Rector preached at the Mass of the Holy Ghost both at Loyola High and at Immaculate Heart College.

During the summer 7 retreats were given on the Loyola campus, with 147 laymen in attendance.

Arrangements are being made to obtain time on local radio stations for the broadcasting of Loyola activities.

The legal fraternity of the Loyola Law College has been recently affiliated with the Phi Delta Phi National Legal Fraternity. Local chapters are called Inns. The Loyola group is called Aggeler Inn, in memory of the late Judge William Tell Aggeler.

LOYOLA HIGH

The school is filled to overflowing. Undesirables were weeded out and a large number of new applicants was turned away, leaving an attendance of 650.

Father Vaughan gave the retreat in September. The Archbishop was invited to say Mass and preach on the last day.

The Sodality is being energetically organized throughout the school.

The Loyola Sodality was the first sodality group to volunteer this year for work in the Archdiocesan Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. It has been assigned the task of bringing musical and dramatic productions to different centers to attract pupils to the catechism classes, to which they give instruction at the end of the performances.

With this year, Volume Three of "Aeternitas" has been started. 1000 copies are mimeographed. It has about 4000 readers. Father Lord has praised it highly.

The students have responded so well to the sermons urging weekly confession and communion, that four priests hearing steadily for two hours every Friday cannot finish them.

Loyola High has provided 13 postulants this summer.

Father Henry gave a Laymen's Retreat at Lone Pine; also one to the Nurses at Mercy Hospital, San Diego, with 150 in attendance.

LOS GATOS

Father Provincial made his annual visitation, September 6-21.

On September 14, Brother Ignatius Duggan pronounced the vows of a Scholastic.

Three more Scholastic Novices have arrived: on September 7, Daniel De Reign from San Jose, and Albert Klaeser from Los Angeles; and on September 14, John Clifford from San Francisco.

Two Coadjutor Postulants came: John Benecke on August 19 from Los Angeles, and George Schaeffer on September 8 from San Jose.

In September the 4th Year Fathers from Alma renewed old memories by saying Mass for the Community in the chapel where as Novices and Juniors they served Mass.

The men of 35 years ago will recall the scramble in silence on villa mornings up the steep hill at the novitiate gate. In silence and with many a stumble we began our meditation; I for one panted all the way up and almost—thought. High up the road skirted the vineyard below the ball field, and eventually climbed and climbed up to Burns' Breeze and Jones' Hill.

To cut out the initial hard climb, in 1905 Brother Louie (Olivier) surveyed a level trail from the house to the present Della Strada Shrine. It was only a footpath and was known as "Brother Louie's Trail." It has since been widened out into the Della Strada Road. Going to villa was made much easier, for the only climb was the long one from Della Strada Shrine up to Burns' Breeze.

Later Scholastics have made villa mornings far easier, and have eliminated Burns' Breeze and Jones' Hill, by putting in the "Mission Trail" which from Della Strada Shrine drops down to the creek. Now the first climb on villa mornings is the short one from the creek bed up to the railroad track and the highway at the trestle near the south end of the Los Gatos Canyon.

SAN FRANCISCO

Father Al Whelan of the America staff spent a few days with us.

Father John O'Neill has returned to the classroom after a short stay in the hospital. Fathers King and Malaise are still in the hospital, though well on the way to recovery. Father Butler was laid up with a touch of the flu.

Father Duce of Alma preached the sermon at the Mass of the Holy Ghost. It was First Friday and the whole student body and faculty attended Mass and received Holy Communion.

Tom Foley, connected with the institution in one way or another for many years, was the victim of a hit-runner in Los Angeles, where he had gone for a vacation. He is mending rapidly and will soon return to San Francisco.

The officers of the high school cadet corps attended the Solemn High Mass in the Cathedral on Constitution Day.

Speaking on the Spanish question, Jose Maria Alonzo, a member of the Spanish Relief Committee in San Francisco, delivered a lecture to the student body.

Father Gleeson gave the annual retreat to the Ladies' Sodality.

SANTA CLARA

The students' retreat, directed by Fr. J. R. Crowley, ended Saturday, September 11, with the Mass of the Holy Ghost. About 3000 pamphlets were circulated among the retreatants, and Fr. H. Donovon distributed 200 scapular medals and 1½ gross of rosaries.

On the First Friday of September Santa Clara took part in the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress ordered by Archbishop Mitty in reparation for the indignities suffered by Our Saviour in Mexico, Spain, and Russia. There was a general Communion and an all-day

exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The day ended with Solemn Benediction, with the Jesuit faculty present in the sanctuary.

On Friday, September 17, Santa Clara observed the sesquicentennial of the U. S. Constitution. At a Solemn High Military Mass, sung by Rev. Fr. Rector, assisted by Fathers Strehl and Corbett, Fr. C. Deeney read the Archbishop's letter for this occasion. This Mass was made more impressive by the presence of the R. O. T. C. unit in uniform. At the entrance of the procession of clergy and lay-faculty into the church, the R. O. T. C. unit stood at attention. At the consecration the Flag bearers dipped their colors, while the remainder of the unit saluted, and, most impressive of all, was the sound of trumpets instead of the usual chimes.

There are now 286 students in the R. O. T. C. unit.

Fr. Hugh Donavon has 11 students in a Confirmation class, and 8 in a First Communion class.

ST. JOSEPH'S

Father McCummiskey has been assigned to the parish for a month, while Father Ivancovich is away for a needed rest.

Father Laherty preached at the Mass of the Holy Ghost for Loyola University, held at Blessed Sacrament, Hollywood, September 26.

The censors have approved Father Father Grisez's pamphlet on vocations. There will be two in the series, the first one is for girls and is entitled: "What Say You, Girls?"

BELLARMINE PREP

The Mass of the Holy Ghost was celebrated on September 13. Father John Buckley of St. Leo's parish gave the sermon.

Father Fox returned on September 17, after four busy months in and about Fresno.

The boarders went on a picnic to Leonard's Ranch on September 6, Labor Day.

Father Whelan gave the retreat on September 28-30.

Father Daze replaced Father Wm. Donnelly in Sacramento on September 11-12.

CHINA

Father Moore arrived in Seattle about September 21.

Father Magner is teaching Chinese to our seven Scholastics who are held over in Tokyo.

When the captain of the President Lincoln announced some distance out from Tokyo that the ship would disembark no passengers at Shanghai, but would only stop there to pick up refugees and go on to Hongkong and Manila, Father Magner wired to Father Lefebvre for instructions and received word that they should all stay in Tokyo.

REGISTRATIONS

	Fmn.	Soph.	Jrs.	Srs.	Tot.
U. S. F.	195	163	136	98	592
D. Law	17	16	19		52
P. M. Law	34	18	18	10	70
P. M. Com.					75
P. M. Ext. and Preleg.					76
					865
S. C. Day	34	35	25	18	153
Bdrs.	140	102	79	36	357
					510
Loy. U.	256	172	89	66	583
P. M. Ext.					37
					620
St. Ign.	199	185	168	144	696
Loy. Hi.	186	187	138	139	650
Bell.	74	93	78	73	318
	Boarders				
S. C.	357				
Loy. U.	75				
Bell.	63				

DEATH OF FR. LEO KEELER, S.J.

Ever since Father Keeler's arrival in the Province, writes Father William J. Dunne, I had been anxiously awaiting his visit to the Novitiate. He had completed his theology at Hastings about the year I arrived there to commence theology. I was anxious for news about old friends in the Lyons Province, and about my many friends in Rome. I still had recollections of a visit he once made, while I was at Lyons.

I was delighted on the morning that he arrived at Los Gatos. He remained for dinner, and spent a very happy recreation with us, at which Father Provincial was present.

I showed him about the grounds, and he was sincerely interested in everything, with his characteristic and almost boyish enthusiasm.

He then expressed a desire to go to Alma and visit with a few of his friends who had been with him in Rome. I offered to show him the way, since it is difficult for a stranger to find it easily. He wished me to go with him in his car, a very large machine owned by the Madames of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco, and driven on this occasion by a student of the University of San Francisco, the usual driver for the Sis-

ters. I declined as I wished to come right back to the Novitiate.

He planned to go from Alma to Santa Clara and then to the Madames of the Sacred Heart at Menlo Park, where he had an appointment for six o'clock with his sister, one of the Madames.

At about two o'clock we left for Alma, I leading the way in the Novitiate car. We visited the grounds and the buildings, and then sought the Fathers of the Faculty. As there were examinations at three o'clock, I remained to show Father more of the grounds.

Just before the Fathers went into examination, he met Fathers Sheerin and James Donovan, old friends from Roman days. In showing him the faculty rooms, Father Donovan opened what he thought was an empty room. (This was a marvelous intervention of Divine Providence, as it provided a priest for Father Keeler's last moments.) In the room was a visitor, Father Bannon of the Chicago Province, saying his office preparatory to returning to San Francisco. Father Keeler persuaded him to change his plans and come with himself.

The three of us made a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, and I said goodbye. Father Keeler graciously thanked me. The boy took the wheel, Father Keeler sat beside him, Father Bannon was in the rear seat, I led the way out down the circuitous road past the old gardens.

We went slowly. As I turned on a lower part of the road, I saw the car coming slowly, not more than 50 feet away. I turned another curve and waited looking in my mirror. Since the car was not coming as closely as before, I slowed up and then stopped. There was no car behind. I sounded the horn and got no reply. I thought it strange, for that part of the road is not considered particularly dangerous.

In some fear I backed up till I came to a fork. Maybe the driver had taken the wrong road. I turned into the fork and sounded my horn as I went. Suddenly I heard my name shouted by Father Bannon. They had gone over the bank and Father Keeler was badly hurt. I returned to the upper road and saw Father Bannon in his shirt sleeves some 70 feet below. His shirt was covered with blood. I called for him to come up. He said he was all right. The blood was from Father Keeler. The driver was out of the car but they could not get Father Keeler out. They asked me to get a doctor.

I returned to the faculty buildings, had a Father call the doctor and an ambulance, got the oils, and returned with six Scholastics to the wreck.

Father Bannon had absolved Father Keeler while he was still breathing. I anointed him. He was still sitting on the right of the driver's seat, his right arm leaning on the door and his head close to the frame of the window. He was bleeding profusely from the head and right ear where he had been struck in the crash against the tree.

In twenty minutes the ambulance arrived. After a brief examination the doctor gave the verdict that Father was dead from a fractured skull.

The car seems to have skidded in some loose gravel. The driver tried to save it, and it toppled over the bank and crashed into the trees some 75 feet down. It gouged a large piece out of one tree, and then seemed to have bounced into another. It came to rest with the right side inclined at a 45 degree angle in the trees.

It was a sad ending to a happy day. But God had been good in having the day end with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, and in arranging to have a priest in the car to give absolution before death had come. Father Bannon was hardly hurt, the driver not at all.

Father Provincial broke the news to the Sister at the convent. At first she was all joy and gratitude because Father Provincial had made her brother's visit possible. Father then told her of the cross it had fallen to him to bring her. She took it wonderfully well, and comforted the heart-broken driver.

Word was sent to the brother and mother and others. At first the Missouri Provincial ordered the body back to Missouri. This he later countermanded (by telephone), at the request of the aged mother (80 years old). Father Keeler, she said, would wish to be buried where he died. As a soldier he had fallen and would rest there where he had been laid low.

The funeral Mass was said at Alma College on September 16, after relatives had come from the East. The remains are interred at Santa Clara.

DEATHS IN THE ASSISTANCY

Sept. 7, Fr. Chas. O'Brien, Havre.
Sept. 11, Fr. Leo Keeler, Alma.

DEATHS OF RELATIVES

Mr. DeLucchi's father.

Exivit Julian Jablonski, Coad. Temp.